

Comments on the Paper Entitled

VIEWS OF INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT ON RUSSIAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS 246

Page 2, paragraph 2 -- The comparative data for annual per capita power consumption are approximately correct. The 360 kWh figure for the USSR is a gross figure, including consumption by power stations, while the 4,070 kWh figure for the US is a net figure. The net figure for the USSR is approximately 900 kWh and the gross figure for the US approximately 4,500 kWh. In both cases, the data include power generated by thermal as well as hydro-electric stations.

The statement that the USSR is short of food is an exaggeration. Food supplies in the USSR are adequate to feed the population, and the average per capita food availability expressed in calories is about the same in the US. The Soviet diet lacks variety, however, consisting overwhelmingly of grain and potatoes, and being deficient in meat, fat, oil and dairy products. The Soviet Union is also short of fodder.

Page 2, paragraph 3 -- We would not consider it correct to say that the USSR is suffering greatly from insufficient transportation. It is true that the inland waterways of the USSR are not fully utilized, even in the open season, largely because of the preference on the part of shippers for rail transport.

Page 2, paragraph 4 -- It is true that the USSR has a low highway density. It possesses, however, a number of excellent highways which connect major cities and which are entirely adequate for the current motor park. It is also true that the US railroad system has approximately three times the trackage of the USSR railroad system. Nonetheless, the ton-mileage of railway freight movement in the USSR is greater than in the US, in spite of the fact that the average length of haul in the USSR is only slightly longer than that in the US. The US, of course, relies much more heavily than the USSR on motor transport and on pipelines.

Page 3, paragraph 1 -- We agree that industrial pollution in the USSR presents a problem in many areas. The USSR has developed a program for the prevention of pollution, but has done little to correct existing pollution.

Page 3, paragraph 2 -- By US standards, Soviet domestic water service must be considered inadequate. However, potable water is provided by individual systems where large municipal systems are lacking. The larger cities have municipal water supply systems.

Page 3, paragraph 4 -- The USSR is definitely making efforts to protect fishery resources, particularly in the Far Eastern area. Present negotiations

with Japan over fishing rights are aimed at preventing the netting of salmon before they reach the spawning grounds. A proposed dam across the Barter Straits north of the Amur River estuary will prevent the southward flow of a cold water current which has been driving the herring schools from traditional fishing areas.

It is true that the Caspian fisheries have deteriorated, partly because Volga River development has reduced the flow of water to the Caspian, and reduced its level. Other reasons are more important, however, including industrial pollution from the Baku oil fields, which has spoiled near shore breeding areas.

Page 3, paragraph 1 -- The USSR relies basically upon legal restrictions to prevent flood damage. For example, zoning laws prohibit economic development in known flood areas, and forest reserves are maintained as a flood preventative, principally in the European USSR. To a greater extent than in the US, these measures tend to anticipate rather than to follow industrial development, and are therefore more effective than they would be in the US.

Page 3, paragraph 2 -- We cannot agree with the statement that State plans are more responsive to political than to economic considerations. Although the basic objectives of the USSR may be political, the State plans, upon which eventual achievement of the objectives depends, are firmly grounded on economic considerations.

We agree that the four listed policy aims are among those pursued by the USSR. To say, however, that industrialization has been undertaken regardless of cost is true only in a particular sense. USSR planners are fully aware of the "cost" and have decided that the end justifies this "cost".

Page 4, paragraph 3 -- It is true that there is still excess capacity for commercial traffic on the Volga-Bea-Baltic-White Sea waterway system. This condition stems basically from the preference of shippers for rail transportation over water transportation.

Page 4, paragraph 4 -- The USSR is not only investing a larger percentage of its gross income in capital improvements than is the US, but is also investing a larger absolute amount in 1958 than the US.

Page 5, paragraph 1 -- USSR engineers and scientists are highly competent and are supported by an ever increasing pool of technicians.

Page 5, paragraph 4 -- It is true that the USSR Sixth Five-Year Plan (1956-1960) has been abandoned for more realistic goals and for a new seven year plan (1959-1965). While many goals have been reduced, some have been increased and greater emphasis has been placed on overcoming deficiencies in the raw material base, electric power generation, fertilizer production and the chemical industry.